Eric VanDussen: Hello.

Nicholas Somberg: Eric.

Eric VanDussen: Yes.

Nicholas Somberg: So this is kinda what I was worried about.

Eric VanDussen: What's that?

Nicholas Somberg: So now you're going around and telling Phil Robinson that I said, he's an FBI agent and he, he should, would you be willing to do a Zoom interview to address these allegations? So-

Eric VanDussen: That's-

Nicholas Somberg: ... what, what the heck man? (laughs). Like-

Eric VanDussen: I cited, I got the transcript-

Nicholas Somberg: He sent me the screenshot.

Eric VanDussen: ... of our-

Nicholas Somberg: He sent me the screenshot.

Eric VanDussen: I-

Nicholas Somberg: Are you there?

Eric VanDussen: ... I transcribed our [February 9, 2022] conversation with Rev. **[See:** https://archive.org/details/nicholas-somberg-interviewed-by-eric-l.-van-dussen-on-february-9-2022/page/8/mode/2up **]**

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah.

Eric VanDussen: And that's exactly what you said, is what I sent to him.

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah. I said specifically, "I heard that he was, don't quote me because I'm not sure." And now you're taking things outta context.

Eric VanDussen: I'm not taking things outta context.

Nicholas Somberg: Dude, Eric, I don't know you, I-

Eric VanDussen: How, how is it taken outta context?

Nicholas Somberg: ... I've heard so many thing about you, I told you not like, you know, your little articles, like whatever. Like, okay, I, I think is pretty cool actually, but, but just stop. If you're gonna really like dive head into like screwing with Nick Somberg like, please don't. I'm like really busy, I have people to help. And I just like, I, sometimes people become obsessed with me and this is what I see happening. And it's like, especially Democrats, they just, they just can't get a grip, (laughs), you know? And like, I understand that you're doing stuff, but I did not, there's no allegation for this Phil guy to address. I was really clear. And like I heard he was FBI agent, I don't know, don't quote me on it and now you're quoting me on it.
[See: "Who is Wolverine Watchmen Attorney Nicholas Somberg?" By Eric L. VanDussen — February 12, 2022 - https://medium.com/@ericlvandussen/who-is-wolverine-watchmen-attorney-nicholas-somberg-49dc6383a5fc **]**

Eric VanDussen: So, so m-

Nicholas Somberg: So this, this-

Eric VanDussen: ... did you read the part of the article where you can't call dibs on something after it comes outta your mouth?

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah. Do, do whatever you want, Eric. I'm just saying like, I would appreciate it if you, if you would not start trying to, so like, do you remember the question I asked you earlier? So who, who exactly putting you up to this?

Eric VanDussen: Why do you think someone would put me up to this?

Nicholas Somberg: 'Cause like w- it's either that or like, so you've been totally obsessing over me for years and reco- and saving everything that some random attorney's been posting like that doesn't, that doesn't make any sense.

Eric VanDussen: Um-

Nicholas Somberg: Is, is either that- [crosstalk 00:02:22].

Eric VanDussen: You're not, you're not a random attorney, Nick. You- you in a lot of the content that I've obtained from these different rallies, you are amongst Boogaloo Boys and you have a different concept, I guess, of what their ideology is than the FBI does. But, um, it's still, I think it's newsworthy that you're an attorney.

Nicholas Somberg: I will make you newsworthy.

Eric VanDussen: What does that-

Nicholas Somberg: Okay. I'm the-

Eric VanDussen: ... what does that mean?

Nicholas Somberg: ... nicest guy ever. Listen I'm- I'm letting you know. I'm, I'm super nice and super chill. I don't mess with anybody. Okay. I go about my business, I have fun, I enjoy my life. I'm on the boat, and I'm on the water. I'm helping people, I'm hanging with my dogs. Um, don't go out of your way to rile people up to like come at me.

Eric VanDussen: I'm asking people questions-

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah. But you're, you're messing with this guy.

Eric VanDussen: ... about your, about your, your behavior that-

Nicholas Somberg: Now he's saying that he's gonna sue me.

Eric VanDussen: For what?

Nicholas Somberg: Like for libel and slander, which I know he can't, but then why did you say the things you said, blah, blah, blah. I'm talking, I'm talking to him right now. Um, so Eric, like just, just stop.

Eric VanDussen: Stop doing what?

Nicholas Somberg: Obsessing over Nick Somberg.

Eric VanDussen: How am I obsessing over you?

Nicholas Somberg: By tr- like recording, saving live videos for years, writing like a 10-page article. Like this is stalker level obsession and it's, it's like, okay, you wrote an article. Like, that's cute. Like I get fanboys and like, I get it, but like, don't take it to the next level please.

Eric VanDussen: So your friend, Shane [Trejo], has some really questionable past, and-

Nicholas Somberg: You can talk to, about Shane. I'm just saying don't obsess and mess with Nick Somberg, please. If you can talk to Shane, you can talk about that.

Eric VanDussen: What does that, what does that even mean? What does that even mean? What does that mean?

Nicholas Somberg: So what it means is like, you know, when I say, "Hey, don't quote me on something," and then you do, and then you're taking it outta context and

you're messaging this poor guy, like, you know, you're stirring up trouble and B.S. and hurting your own credibility.

Eric VanDussen: I think that I'm doing an adequate job of trying to get to the bottom of-

Nicholas Somberg: Okay.

Eric VanDussen: ... what is factual and what is not, which is, um, what-

Nicholas Somberg: Okay.

Eric VanDussen: ... I'm, what I'm doing. I mean-

Nicholas Somberg: Okay.

Eric VanDussen: ... Shane has all these articles that he's written about you and he doesn't disclose in any of them that he's a friend of yours. Does that concern you at all?

Nicholas Somberg: I mean, you can, you can talk with Shane, I'm not talking about Shane right now. I'm just talking about this guy, Phil Rob- Robinson, Robinson, whatever his name is. And, um, I guess I'll- I'll give him a call and see what his d- deal is. I'm pretty much saying, "Hey, this is some, what Democrat's has become obsessed with me. Don't give him any energy or attention," is what I'm telling him. Um, you know, "It happens once in a while."

Eric VanDussen: I guess I-

Nicholas Somberg: So it just, you know?

Eric VanDussen: My- my looking into this has everything to do with your association with Boogaloo boys and having video-

Nicholas Somberg: All right.

Eric VanDussen: ... evidence of it.

Nicholas Somberg: I guess, I mean, you can do whatever you want-

Eric VanDussen: And then-

Nicholas Somberg: ... I mean, like if that's what this is all about.

Eric VanDussen: ... and then, and then, and then the Boogaloo Boy-

Nicholas Somberg: ... all about. 'Cause I went to a protest two years ago.

Eric VanDussen: With-

Nicholas Somberg: This is why you're like doing all this.

Eric VanDussen: And, and you fistbumped and shook hands with people that were your future clients after they got arrested for activities that were occurring at the same time you were at these protests with them, Nick.

Nicholas Somberg: And I guess I hear you. And like, so what? (laughs).

Eric VanDussen: What do you mean, so what?

Nicholas Somberg: I'm like, I'm like, so what, like-

Eric VanDussen: You went-

Nicholas Somberg: Who cares.

Eric VanDussen: ... you went to the rally on October... or on April 15th [2020] with someone dressed in Boogaloo Boys attire and that you won't identify. And that I find it hard to believe- **[See:** https://vimeo.com/675540659 **]**

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah.

Eric VanDussen: ... that you don't know who-

Nicholas Somberg: The guy as-

Eric VanDussen: ... that person is.

Nicholas Somberg: Which, which, which guy?

Eric VanDussen: The guy on the video for, uh, for April 15th, Operation Gridlock.

Nicholas Somberg: The guy, um, who was walking with, with Kurt?

Eric VanDussen: Yeah. The guy in the-

Nicholas Somberg: I dunno the Kurt man.

Eric VanDussen: ... in the mess.

Nicholas Somberg: I know Kurt, I don't know the other guy. I mean-

Eric VanDussen: I find that hard to believe, but-

Nicholas Somberg: - see him like, I would point to you, I mean, I would [inaudible 00:06:38] anything probably to my detriment. Right.

Eric VanDussen: I, I don't know. I don't know if you're trying to protect who that hurts in it.

Nicholas Somberg: Probably do some like research. Um, I mostly spend my time at music festivals and, uh, not (laughs). You know, I haven't, I haven't, I haven't picked up a, uh, I haven't shot a gun or went to the range and forever, you know, the- [crosstalk 00:07:02].

Eric VanDussen: Do you still hang out with Shane [Trejo]? Do you still hang out with Shane?

Nicholas Somberg: I know Shane. I don't think I... Yeah. I, I know Shane. I think I see him. He goes to a lot of Republican stuff. He's super involved with all that.

Eric VanDussen: And he, um... Do you read his, his, uh, articles that he posts about you on his site?

Nicholas Somberg: Uh, usually.

Eric VanDussen: So are you aware of his association and writing about Charlottesville?

Nicholas Somberg: Charlottesville? I don't know what Charlottesville.

Eric VanDussen: Uh-

Nicholas Somberg: Charlottesville?

Eric VanDussen: ... White supremacist, uh, rallies where Heather Heyer died, by getting hit by a car.

Nicholas Somberg: What? Uh, Charlottesville rally. One second. I don't know what Char- is that the, I just typed it in the Google. It says, "Unite the Right Rally." Is that what you're talking about?

Eric VanDussen: I'm texting you right now. **[See:** https://www.mediamatters.org/big-league-politics/michigan-gop-official-shane-trejo-portrayed-charlottesville-white-supremacists **]**

Nicholas Somberg: Okay. Yeah, I definitely was not there.

Eric VanDussen: Well, I'm not... I'm not saying that I'm saying-

Nicholas Somberg: Okay. I don't know about it.

Eric VanDussen: ... are you aware, are you aware of his writings about that?

Nicholas Somberg: Uh, I, no. I mean, I read everything he writes.

Eric VanDussen: Well, you're gonna, I'm assuming, and I won't disagree with you. Argue that this [Media Matters for America] is a left leaning publication and it is just like, his [Big League Politics] is a, a right lean, uh, publication. But-

Nicholas Somberg: So I click... Go ahead. 'Cause I click the link and the click link was a Media Matters.

Eric VanDussen: Yeah. And if you go to that article and you look at their sources for like, if you go about halfway down the Liberty Conservative, they have a screenshot of what he wrote in a paper used to [inaudible 00:09:10]. It's probably defunct now the Liberty Conservative. **[See:** https://web.archive.org/web/20200922083841/https://libertyconservative.com/unite-the-right-protesters-turn-into-civil-rights-heroes-as-leftists-mount-discrimination-campaign/ **]**

Nicholas Somberg: I can't remember anything about that.

Eric VanDussen: And how he showed support for those individuals.

Nicholas Somberg: So what does this have to do with me?

Eric VanDussen: You're hanging out with him in a limo at a rally or at a protest on April 30th, [2020] making fun about calling Whitmer, Whitler. And you're making- **[See:** https://vimeo.com/676356111 **]**

Nicholas Somberg: Right. But what is that like? How is this connected to some article or something like I, I'm not getting the connection.

Eric VanDussen: Um, he's a friend of yours and he's going around to these rallies with you on April 15th, [2020] now, well, April 23rd [2020] he was at the one at Whitmer's house that you were at with armed individuals. And he took a photograph of you and her standing in a driveway with a bunch of armed individuals behind you. **[See:** https://archive.org/details/04-23-20-nicholas-somberg-photo-taken-by-shane-trejo-at-gov.-whitmers-lansing-home-jpeg **]**

Nicholas Somberg: So what's this-

Eric VanDussen: And then on the 30th, he's with you again.

Nicholas Somberg: ... I, I got man, I guess who you're talking about here probably. So.

Eric VanDussen: And he's writing all these, he's writing all these articles about you. You guys are friends. He's going to these protests with you and he's not disclosing that. And he's pretending to be a journalist. And on top of it, he made up all these lies about the, these ballots coming in the back door at the Detroit [TCF] Center when he was down there probably with you in Detroit, I'm assuming.

Nicholas Somberg: Okay. And your point is I know him. So therefore what?

Eric VanDussen: So therefore, um, his, his association with you, and you being friendly with him is, is I don't is, is-

Nicholas Somberg: Is... Go ahead.

Eric VanDussen: ... is questionable.

Nicholas Somberg: Questionable. (laughs). Like, okay. So what is like, what a, like, again, the same thing is like, I just kinda like puzzled. Okay. So what is, so Nick Somberg out of ten thousands and thousands of people, he knows, he knows this one guy and he wrote an article and-

Eric VanDussen: Do you, he wrote a lot of articles about the Wolverine Watchman and he disparages the CI Dan and calls him a, a rat in articles about, uh, cases that you're involved in. And you guys are friends and he doesn't disclose when he is writing articles about you, that he he's a friend of yours. That, that is like, I mean, I'm not all up on every ethics, uh, you, you know, issue with ...

Nicholas Somberg: So somebody who knows me, can't write an article on me. I mean, now, now we've talked a couple times and you're writing articles on me. So like-

Eric VanDussen: I don't, I don't consider us friends.

Nicholas Somberg: What's that?

Eric VanDussen: I don't consider myself your friend. And if I did consider yourself my friend, um, and had pictures of you, uh, with me at birthday parties, um, drinking, um, then I probably would disclose that in an article, if I wrote it about you and my editor would not allow me to write an article about you.

Nicholas Somberg: So you're saying he's... Okay. Again, this is like someone [crosstalk 00:12:20].

Eric VanDussen: He touts himself to be a, he touts himself to be a reporter in everything I've seen. He touts himself to be a reporter. Okay. Uh, journalistic ethics 101. If you're friends with some, someone, and you write something about them, you have to disclose that to the reader.

Nicholas Somberg: Okay.

Eric VanDussen: As he's bashing the CI Dan and calling him a rat and what he's writing about cases that you're involved in.

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah. I, I guess take that up with him, but like I called you to really narrow point as just, hey, excuse me. Um, you know, don't like take things outta context and like, make people feel like, um, that things are like, you know, you're asking this guy, Phil, let me go back to his page, um, you know, you're making this guy feel like, uh, there's some allegations against him. He's like, "No, I was having a conversation with you." And I'm like, "I heard he's an FBI agent. I'm not sure, don't quote me on it. But that's, that's what I heard."

Eric VanDussen: That is not all you said. That, that is not all you said Nick.

Nicholas Somberg: I'm reading what I said. You, you have this, I see the screenshot of the whole, the whole quote here. I think he's like an FBI agent or [inaudible 00:13:33] or something. But yeah, again, don't quote me on it 'cause I'm not a hundred percent sure.

Eric VanDussen: Right. That's exactly what you said. But that's not all you said.

Nicholas Somberg: Now you're bringing up this word ethics. So now you're going to this guy and saying, "Hey, multiple individuals have informed me that they believe you're currently an FBI agent."

Eric VanDussen: That is, that is absolutely 100% accurate.

Nicholas Somberg: Okay.

Eric VanDussen: I told you the same thing on the same inter- interview we had that whole conversation and that is the entirety of the conversation. You brought it up that you thought he was a FED. And I said, I heard that as well. And then you went on a little bit more of discussion, and then you said, "I'm about 90% sure he is."

Nicholas Somberg: I will talk with, uh, with, Phil, I don't know, I'll, I'll give you a little bit more leeway, but, um-

Eric VanDussen: What do you mean leeway? What, how, what are you exactly saying?

Nicholas Somberg: I, like I said, once in a while I get, um, stalkers. Okay. Some of them are like crazy right-wing people. Um, that think I'm like not doing enough. And they're like just obsessed over me. Um, sometimes I get Democrat, obsessed people that like, they're just like, "He's a good guy, I live in a good life," and they can't stand it and they hate it. And I think that's where you're at. And, um, you know, I'll probably just block you across the board. And if I hear anything, I'll say, "Hey, you know, this guy Eric's become obsessed with me. He's a little bit of a stalker. And he is been recording all my stuff for years and, um, I don't know him. But, uh, if you hear from him, you know, please contact me directly. And I'm sorry about this guy, but this kind of happens. You know, when you're, when you put yourself out there."

Eric VanDussen: Well, you're, you're, you're, you're making yourself out to be something you're not, which is someone that-

Nicholas Somberg: I'm not trying to do anyway.

Eric VanDussen: ... someone that I focused on, okay. This is like a dragnet of all the content I can find surrounding the [Lansing] protests on the 15th, the 23rd and the 30th [of April, 2020] and afterwards in the [Michigan] Capitol at the Capitol building and at Whitmer's house.
[See: https://vimeo.com/user1676477 **]**

Nicholas Somberg: Does, does Jesse know about all this?

Eric VanDussen: The drag net, the drag net has located-

Nicholas Somberg: Did Jesse know what you're like? Does he know this?

Eric VanDussen: He has located some, he has located some videos from you.

Nicholas Somberg: Okay.

Eric VanDussen: In the drag net.

Nicholas Somberg: Does Jesse know about all this stuff?

Eric VanDussen: Why wouldn't Jesse know and what does that have to do with anything?

Nicholas Somberg: I don't, I just wanna ask about him, and like, “I've never met you but Eric, because he works for you. And this guy is getting a little obsessed and it's, uh, you know-“

Eric VanDussen: I'm obsessed? I'm obsessed because, uh... so basically Nick, what I've in engaged in is my own version of the Sedition Hunters, um, from the [January 6, 2021, US] Capitol riots-

Nicholas Somberg: The sedition what?

Eric VanDussen: In DC. You never heard of the Sedition Hunters?

Nicholas Somberg: Sedition Honors?

Eric VanDussen: Sedition Hunters.

Nicholas Somberg: Sedition Hunters. I do not know what that is now.

Eric VanDussen: So the Sedition Hunters are a group, mostly of unidentified individuals that have been helping the FBI locate, uh, people involved in the, the Capitol insurrection, riot, whatever you wanna call it.

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah.

Eric VanDussen: On January 6th [2021].

Nicholas Somberg: That is on the web, that's on the website.

Eric VanDussen: Yeah. There's a bunch of different ones. The Sedition Hunters are like, there's probably, uh, there's a bunch of them that some of them go by Sedition Hunters. That's like the most mainstream name for them.

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah, I see it.

Eric VanDussen: So that's-

Nicholas Somberg: That's how you're doing, and you think I'm some sort of seditionist I mean.

Eric VanDussen: No. I'm saying that that type of activity is what I'm engaged in with others trying to locate and identify persons-

Nicholas Somberg: Okay. I'm not a seditionist. So like, that's what I'm saying is like, you're like obsessing with [crosstalk 00:17:20].

Eric VanDussen: You're hanging out with Boogaloo-

Nicholas Somberg: I don't get.

Eric VanDussen: You're hanging out with Boogaloo Boys.

Nicholas Somberg: But I get it. But like, it's like, uh, weird.

Eric VanDussen: You're hanging out with Boogaloo Boys. You're sitting through prelims where people are testifying to what they are really about. And then you're downplaying it.

Nicholas Somberg: People to testifying to what they're really about.

Eric VanDussen: Yeah.

Nicholas Somberg: I, none of my clients testified. Uh, what do you, I don't know what you're talking. My client didn't even testify.

Eric VanDussen: I'm saying that [confidential informant] Dan and the FBI agent said, uh, and testified to what the Boogaloo ideology is. And in our [February 9, 2022] interview, you completely downplayed what their ideology is. And you said-

Nicholas Somberg: Okay. They don't know. I mean, they're giving an opinion. I mean, so here lemme type in like Boogaloo into Google, and see what you're talking about.

Eric VanDussen: They're giving their expert opinion.

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah. One second. Boogaloo, so this-

Eric VanDussen: Boogaloo Boys.

Nicholas Somberg: ... [crosstalk 00:18:10] me see. 'Cause I'm not [inaudible 00:18:10], um, Googling this.

Eric VanDussen: You sat through the [Jackson County] prelim when-

Nicholas Somberg: I know. Hey relax, calm down.

Eric VanDussen: You sat through the prelim, just like I listened to it.

Nicholas Somberg: So ideology topics, very widely, blah, blah, Black Lives Matter, white supremacists, primarily organized period in person events. All right. Well, political structure, membership, um, overview, participant.

Eric VanDussen: Did you read the article I sent you about the Boogaloo Boys that just pled guilty out in California after, back in the protests-

Nicholas Somberg: I, I wanted just this, uh, got it, I clicked that. I didn't understand what that was. Uh, I was gonna text you. Um, but I didn't understand what that was, uh, what that was like, how that related to my thing and me.

Eric VanDussen: Well-

Nicholas Somberg: It's kinda like, um-

Eric VanDussen: That was you down- you downplayed the Boogaloo Boy ideology and I sent you an article that is very timely on that issue- **[See:** https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndca/pr/santa-cruz-county-resident-pleads-guilty-murder-and-attempted-murder-after-drive **]**

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah.

Eric VanDussen: ... which shows that a Boogaloo Boy just pled guilty [on February 11, 2022] for what they did out in California and snippered a federal agent outside of a federal building. And that is their ideology.

Nicholas Somberg: So your position's kind of like, you know, it's like, you're kind of like blaming, like, I guess you, you would like blame, like, you know, if say like a Muslim person, like commits a terrorist attack, you'd be like, this is, you'd blame all Muslims. Right. And you'd think it's all their ideology. It's like, no, man, like, you know, just 'cause one person is like crazy or extreme, like doesn't, you know, at least in my belief, like you don't blame an entire ideology that doesn't, you know, that doesn't, um, preach those things.

Eric VanDussen: Well, your client was in the, in the military, at least in the reserves. And he called himself the Boogaloo Bunyan. That was his-

Nicholas Somberg: For sure.

Eric VanDussen: ... that was his [user] name. So I think the, the evidence that came out at the prelim demonstrates that he, uh, has adopted that ideology of the Boogaloo when he's in a car with Dan and they're talking about stacking up and rushing the [Michigan] Capitol and storming the Capitol. And then they don't have to, thank God, because who knows what could have happened if an officer would've tried to stop them, um, when they were just let in, instead.

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah.

Eric VanDussen: Who would've known, who knows what would've happened? Do you know would've happened?

Nicholas Somberg: Well, Eric, I got a lot going on. Um, I just wanted to call you cuz this guy Phil [Robinson] like messaging me. And like, he's like, what is up with this guy? I'm just like, "Oh man." So if you could, I guess your end, your end game for me is what?

Eric VanDussen: I don't have any-

Nicholas Somberg: You don't know (laughs).

Eric VanDussen: I don't have an end... I don't have an end game. There is no, there is no agenda here. You're-

Nicholas Somberg: It kind kind of seems like there is, you know, a little bit, I mean, I don't know anybody else who like saved all my stories for like two years.

Eric VanDussen: You don't, you have no idea how much content I have from all these [2020, Lansing, MI] protests. You have no idea.

Nicholas Somberg: I'm, I'm sure you do.

Eric VanDussen: I have a massive amount.

Nicholas Somberg: Okay.

Eric VanDussen: A massive. So I'm talking to documentary filmmakers right now. There's been several documentary, uh, uh, filmmakers that have already used some of my content.

Nicholas Somberg: That's totally fine. Um, but you know, I feel like I was really cool with you and nice to you. So I should kinda like expect-

Eric VanDussen: So what-

Nicholas Somberg: ... same sort of like respect and common sense back. [inaudible 00:21:59] about this.

Eric VanDussen: What, what did I publish? What did I, what did I publish that was not accurate, I guess. Is there something inaccurate.

Nicholas Somberg: And specifically, so you... and yeah, I'll answer you directly. So you, you sent me that message. Um, you sent me an article, was it fricking Burning Man, but um, you know, clicked on it. Um, and the reach until next day, I didn't have service. So I read it and I'm like, "Hey, I said, I think it's amazing overall, a little long, sometimes and off track with information." I said, the Joe, I specifically set out your entire page, you know, how many pages is your thing? Let me click on it. It is, uh, scrolling down a lot, you

know, out of all your pages of all your content. The one thing that I said, as I said, "Hey, that Joe Robinson stuff may be removed because I don't know if he's an FBI or what, and don't want it to come off as an accusation." I've been at Burning Man island all weekend. You know, so that's all, I'm like, "Hey, out of all this stuff, dude, out of all these fricking pages, all this stuff, a lot of content, the only thing I pointed out was like, hey, the Joe Robinson thing, you try, you shouldn't have printed that because you know, I said, I don't know if it's true and now you're posting something like-

Eric VanDussen: Well, why are you calling-

Nicholas Somberg: ... repeating, If I say, I don't know if it's true and that you repeat it, you know, that's, you shouldn't do that. That's just wrong.

Eric VanDussen: Well, why are you calling him Joe first of all? It's Phil and it's Phil Robinson and you shook hands. You shook hands with him [crosstalk 00:23:28]. You shook hands with him at the [April 30, 2020, Lansing, MI] rally and talked about cutting Governor Whitmer's grass on April 30th up on the stage. **[See:** https://vimeo.com/676356111 **]**

Nicholas Somberg: I-I understand that. Let me repeat what I'm saying. I'm just saying, um, that specifically, I, I don't, you know, I hear what you're saying. That's not what I'm talking about. I'm saying that you're posting that I specifically said, "Hey, you should take that part out of the article where you copy and pasted where I said, I wasn't sure if he's an FBI agent," because it's kind of like, you know, it's kind of like putting out there. Like if, if you say, if someone says, they're not sure, and then you post it, it's like, you're, you're repeating something that you don't know is true. And it's just, it's just kind of, I mean to me, it's, it's unethical and, and it's like little, little dirty, you know, the entire conversation.

Eric VanDussen: Okay. So the entire conversation.

Nicholas Somberg: If you would take that part out, because I said, I didn't know. And-

Eric VanDussen: The entire conversation though you brought it up, him being a fed. I didn't - potentially being a fed. I did not bring it up. You brought it up.

Nicholas Somberg: All right, Eric. Well-

Eric VanDussen: You did. You said, "Did he end up being a fed?"

Nicholas Somberg: I have been following track of what you're doing? And um, I, I'm just asking you nicely to just please, you know, be ethical and cut this stuff out. And uh-

Eric VanDussen: You said these words.

Nicholas Somberg: If you don't, you know, it is what it is.

Eric VanDussen: ... Nick, you said, you said these words.

Nicholas Somberg: Okay, whatever, Eric, you must have no life, no fun at all. (laughs). Like, this is what you do. Like, come on, man. You must have nothing out going on at all to be doing this dingdong. dingdong stuff, dude, this is just stupid. But I'll call Phil, I'll, uh, I don't even have his number. I don't think he wants to talk to me. But, um-

Eric VanDussen: I think I would put it like this, Nick.

Nicholas Somberg: I won't stop you, if you wanna post that. I mean, whatever-

Eric VanDussen: I think I would-

Nicholas Somberg: ... just your own credibility.

Eric VanDussen: I would put it to this way. If you're not sure about something as an attorney, as consequential as whether or not someone's a fed or not, you shouldn't be saying it.

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah. Well, I didn't say-

Eric VanDussen: You said 90%, sure.

Nicholas Somberg: I'm stating here, I haven't heard if he's a fed but I don't know if he is. So whatever dude, you're, you know, I see it now.

Eric VanDussen: You're being interviewed by someone that tells you that they're a freelance journalist and you're still, you say that.

Nicholas Somberg: I guess I expected you to be ethical, but you know, now I know you, so it is what it is.

Eric VanDussen: You mean, you mean ethical, like your reporter friend, Shane [Trejo].

Nicholas Somberg: Like, I, I think Shane's ethical. I mean, I haven't seen him do anything. I haven't seen him like post something that he knows is not true.

Eric VanDussen: Has he revealed that he's your friend in any of the articles he's written about you?

Nicholas Somberg: Um, I don't know. I haven't, I haven't, you know, I don't really read, read 'em all. [crosstalk 00:26:21].

Eric VanDussen: Well, maybe ask him that question, ask him that question.

Nicholas Somberg: It's all, it's all good. Um, I, you know, I'm gonna probably distance myself from you at this time. Um, you're kind of, uh, you know, not a ethical journalist, at least in my opinion at this time, if you would like to, you know, do the right thing. Like, so, you know, for example, like if FOX 2 [Detroit] or [WXYZ] Channel 7 interviews me and they ask me a question or I bring something up and I say, "Well, you know what, I'm not, I'm not really sure about that. Um, so don't quote me on it, because I'm not sure."

Nicholas Somberg: And then, you know, say it's like Charlie Langton from Channel 7. Say, Charlie would never, as a re-reputable journalist, you know, go and say something where I literally said, "Hey, I'm not sure if this is true. So, you know, I'm just talking to you here," but, and, and, and then present it as like, um, allegation against that person. And you can deflect and say, "Oh, well, you're friends with Shane, but it has nothing to do with what, what I'm talking to you about right now, man." Um, so it is what it is. I guess I'll just deal, deal with it. It's fine. It's not the top of my list right now, but it's just something where this poor guy messaged me. I'm like, oh man. So I'm gonna call him and explain the whole thing. And, um, I'd appreciated if you just kind of stick, stick to the fact and you know, if you're gonna obsess, obsess, but like, I guess I'll keep track of you keeping track of me. And you know, I don't really want to, like, I better shit to do, you know, like pay attention to you. (laughs).

Eric VanDussen: I'm not asking you to pay attention to me. I'm, you know, I think-

Nicholas Somberg: You text me and stuff and you know, you're talking and then now you're messing with, you know, other people and trying to throw my name around. So, um-

Eric VanDussen: Do you understand though, that when you're having a conversation with a reporter and you're being in interviewed-

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah.

Eric VanDussen: ... that you cannot, you cannot, you cannot call, [crosstalk 00:28:33] you cannot call dibs.

Nicholas Somberg: ... the same guy.

Eric VanDussen: You know, you cannot call dibs after it already came outta your mouth. Do you know that?

Nicholas Somberg: Uh, Eric, I'm sure that in your mind, you're gonna set whatever rules you wanna set.

Eric VanDussen: That's the standards editor for the New York Times. And it's cited in my article. **[See:** Columbia Journalism Review piece entitled: "Can you make something off the record once you've said it on the record?" - https://www.cjr.org/first_person/on_or_off_the_record.php **]**

Nicholas Somberg: You know, I hope you get more than three followers on your, uh, on your, your blog. Um, I bet you, if I shared it, you get more than three, right? I was gonna, I was gonna share it. You know, I was like, "Hey, look at this guy," you know, I was gonna get you some hits and some attention and stuff, but some people are just really not cool.

Eric VanDussen: That is - that is not my concern. I, I'm not worried about clicks. That is not what I'm all about. I just think that you should have some savvy with the media yourself and understand that you gotta think before you talk, because when it comes outta your mouth, you can't take it back and just say, you want that off the record. That has to be agreed. [...] But do you under- do you understand that though, that you can't, you can't take something back and make it off the record once it's already come out on the record? Do you understand that concept?

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah. I guess, but like, you're, you're spinning something that's not, that you know is like, like you're trying to like go, like you're trying to use something that, you know, is not the truth. You know what I mean? That you're taking something that like, and I, and I get the lesson I'll take and I'll take the lesson on, on the face. You know, I, I get it like, "Okay, like not every reporter's good and ethical." And so I gotta be really careful of what I say. Um, I'll just giving you my, my time of day, you know, and, um, yeah, but at the same time, like I'm taking the lesson that you're telling me, but I'm also trying to tell you, well, you know, you are, you also are like knowingly pushing something around that you know, I said is, I don't think is, you know, I don't know is true or not. And I think that is also maybe something that you can self reflect and say, "Hey, like I'm, I'm being..." you know, I, I won't use the word, but you're being, you know what you're being.

Eric VanDussen: That's exactly. That's exactly what I said to Phil [Robinson] in the communication with him was, will you clarify this with me one way or the other. That's, in a nutshell, what, um, I'm asking of him is for him to clarify it.

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah.

Eric VanDussen: Can I, can I read you, I'm gonna read you this quote. It's really short. And it's from, from the New York Times' standards, editor [Philip Corbett].

Nicholas Somberg: Eric, I don't think that you are a good person and that is why you it's a self-loathing boredom thing.

Eric VanDussen: That does not hurt my feelings for someone that hangs out with Shane Trejo.

Nicholas Somberg: I said I heard a thing about you, I've no reason to do that first. I'm not, I do not, like, like two minutes ago, I, I, I was hearing you talk on the phone. I thought like your phone died or something. I called you right back.

Eric VanDussen: So you're saying you don't like me, but you like Shane Trejo?

Nicholas Somberg: I was saying that-

Eric VanDussen: That's, that's what you're saying to me.

Nicholas Somberg: I never said I didn't like you, I just said that you are clearly a bad person.

Eric VanDussen: Okay. Well, yeah, if you're, if you think Shane is a good company and better than me, then, uh, I guess more power to you.

Nicholas Somberg: I haven't met you in person, but I'm saying by limited interactions from you- [crosstalk 00:32:01]

Eric VanDussen: You know who Shane is?

Nicholas Somberg: Shane, um, you know, I've done, uh, volunteer work with Shane. We've, uh, been that Republican things. You know, this is somebody who I actually, I think I knew him before Republican stuff.

Eric VanDussen: Well, read that article I sent you thoroughly with, with the links, read it thoroughly.

Nicholas Somberg: But inducing my limited interactions with you that you're, you know, kind of a skeez.

Eric VanDussen: Okay, well.

Nicholas Somberg: So I'm, uh, asking you to, to leave me alone and, um, I will not bother you or, or, you know, throw your name around or anything or say true things. I want you to know, I'm just, it's just, just whatever. Um, but I guess I'd just like to, uh, extend the olive branch, say, "Hey, Eric, you know, you know, chill."

Eric VanDussen: I'm chilled.

Nicholas Somberg: Okay.

Eric VanDussen: But I, I think, I, I think that it's a, it's kind of, uh, I use this word repetitively, but it's perplexing to me that you have, uh, this relationship with Shane Trejo .

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah.

Eric VanDussen: And you think he, there's nothing wrong with him and he's a nice guy, but, and you know who he is. I have no doubt in my mind, you know who he is.

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah. Of course.

Eric VanDussen: You know, every, you know what he's about, you know, that he, uh, thinks the white supremacist down in Charlottesville were - there's nothing wrong with them. And there's civil rights heroes, "Civil Rights Heroes," is what he wrote. Okay. **[See:** https://web.archive.org/web/20200922083841/https://libertyconservative.com/unite-the-right-protesters-turn-into-civil-rights-heroes-as-leftists-mount-discrimination-campaign/ **]**

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah. I haven't seen that, but um-

Eric VanDussen: Well read the article I sent you.

Nicholas Somberg: I'll check it out, but I am perplexed that, a- you know, that you would obsess over me for two years and then, you've been recording this stuff for two years-

Eric VanDussen: Why are you giving yourself that much credit?

Nicholas Somberg: ... and then all of a sudden, like, I, you must have like, had something happen in your life where you're like, "You know what, now's day, today's day that I'm gonna, um, go forth with my obsession and like go after this guy, because you know, he's living a good life," and I don't know I'm hypothesizing but-

Eric VanDussen: This all came from stuff you-

Nicholas Somberg: ... completely no sense to me.

Eric VanDussen: This came from what you said in your podcast, laughing about the, the [MI Governor Gretchen Whitmer] Pornhub meme.

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah.

Eric VanDussen: And all your livestream videos that you posted, livestream.

Nicholas Somberg: But why did you, you've, you've been recording this stuff for years. Like, why?

Eric VanDussen: Not just you, I told you I have a dragnet out for all this content from around the protests that occurred in Lansing in 2020. That's the dragnet. You are just a little bit of the dragnet. You're just a little bit of the dragnet.

Nicholas Somberg: All right. Well, um, like I asked you, if I'm like, "Hey, you think I'm one of the good guys or the bad guys," and you know, you, I think you said that-

Eric VanDussen: I think the more I look into Shane, the less and less, I respect you.

Nicholas Somberg: What's that?

Eric VanDussen: The more I look into Shane, and do a deep dive into him, the way less I respect you.

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah, that's fine. I, uh, I, I know Shane I've known him for a long time. You know, he doesn't, um, come out the music festivals with me or anything, you know, he is out in my, uh, inner circle of friends. I know, uh, thousands of, thousands of people. It's kind of crazy. So, you know, whatever floated your boat man, I know it's tough, you know, out here and stuff and, um, so whatever. But just keep it truthful and just don't, you know, I would not go outta your way to like mess with me that much. Just be chill, stick to the facts. And, um, you know, I'm very tolerant and nice guy. Like I said, I, lawyer, dogs, boating, chilling, music festivals, um, you know, and I take some, some, some good cases. So it is [crosstalk 00:35:58].

Eric VanDussen: I think, I think though, do you understand that people think it's, it's newsworthy that you-

Nicholas Somberg: What's that?

Eric VanDussen: Do you think, um, do you, do you understand why people think it's newsworthy that you as an attorney are going around in rallies, uh, fist-bumping with Boogaloo Boys and shaking hands with Boogaloo Boys.

Nicholas Somberg: I guess, like dude I see, I see attorneys at like, Black Lives Matter rallies.

Eric VanDussen: Okay.

Nicholas Somberg: And who cares? I don't like, you know, so, so like, let's turn us, you know, like I see attorney, I seen geez man. Like I, and I also, I was down at the, uh, um, like the original, like George Floyd rally. Um, I guess so, you know, during COVID and all that, um, you know, when I see fellow attorneys and, um, people I know, and I'm just like down there, just like showing. I just kinda wanna observe and, and, and pay respects, you know, against police brutality as well. Um, just as a libertarian and, you know, so like, what if I decided to like, like focus on some random attorney who's there, uh, say, you know, Mike is down there and say, I say, "Hey, Mike, uh, you fist-bumped this guy. And did you know that this guy, uh, was throwing Molotov cockt- coctails?" Like, you're just, it's such a stretch. It's so stupid. And like, I understand, like you think it's newsworthy, but like, it's like, you're making this like, kind of like absurd, you know, like, oh, like you stood next to this guy and you cheered Black Lives Matter with him. And like this guy posted on Facebook that like all white people are the devil. So like, do you think all white people are the devil? It's like, this is bad journalism. This is, um, like you're drawing these connections that are not connected. And it's just kind of shit thing to do.

Eric VanDussen: Well, you said in the last interview that you had learned something... I'm paraphrasing, but you had learned something from the Dearborn incident when you represented those two individuals that were ultimately convicted. Um, I forget of what, and then convictions were upheld on appeal and that maybe that wasn't the best idea for them. And we had a whole conversation about, well, how is that any different from these guys that went in the Capitol building, um, on April 30th [2020] in, in Lansing?

Nicholas Somberg: Yeah.

Eric VanDussen: And the, the, the possibilities for someone to spark off something that no one really intended and someone getting hurt.

Nicholas Somberg: Well, I think there's some big differences. I think number one is like a pretty clear, organized protest. It wasn't like a surprise, like what is going on? You know, I kind of feel like those officers, you know, had been like, you know, they're completely caught off guard and I, and I, and I understand how, why they reacted the way they did. Um, I mean, my client only had a, um, a camera, so, you know, he didn't even have, he didn't even have a gun, but like the whole capitol thing is, is whatever. But I feel like I don't even wanna talk to you. 'Cause I feel like you're like recording me right now. I'm just gonna like [crosstalk 00:38:50].

Eric VanDussen: Well, abso- absolutely. I'm a reporter. I'm recording you. That is a given.

Nicholas Somberg: And that's, and that's fine. [crosstalk 00:38:58]

Eric VanDussen: What, what reporter, what reporter does an interview with you and doesn't record it?

Nicholas Somberg: Eric, I found out that you're not ethical. So.

Eric VanDussen: When's the last time you've had a conversation with a reporter that wasn't recorded?

Nicholas Somberg: No-

Eric VanDussen: Seriously, seriously.

Nicholas Somberg: [crosstalk 00:39:15]. But what I'm saying, like, I'm, I typically deal with ethical reporters.

Eric VanDussen: What have I done that's unethical.

Nicholas Somberg: So I specifically, you are contacting a man who, you know, that I said, I don't know if this guy, you know, I don't know if this guy's an FBI agent or working for the feds and you're using my words and showing to him, like this is some allegation he needs to respond to.

Eric VanDussen: It's in the article. **[See:** "Who is Wolverine Watchmen Attorney Nicholas Somberg?" By Eric L. VanDussen — February 12, 2022 - https://medium.com/@ericlvandussen/who-is-wolverine-watchmen-attorney-nicholas-somberg-49dc6383a5fc **]**

Nicholas Somberg: That's, that's unethical.

Eric VanDussen: That's not unethical.

Nicholas Somberg: Okay. Then your ethics are different. (laughs). I won't use them any more.

Eric VanDussen: They're... I did not.

Nicholas Somberg: Your ethics are quite different than other reporters.

Eric VanDussen: Did I misquote your words?

Nicholas Somberg: So, all right. Eric, have a good one. Um, please no more funny business. And, um, and that's all. And have a good night. Okay.

Eric VanDussen: All right, man.

Nicholas Somberg: Okay. Thank you. Bye.